WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for re-booting an operating system software in a data processing system, comprising the steps of:

determining whether a buffer contains a message indicating that a BIOS image for the data processing system was previously updated;

performing a signature verification on a remainder of the BIOS image; and

proceeding with re-boot of the operating system software if the signature verification correctly verifies the remainder of the BIOS image.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

not proceeding with the re-boot of the operating system software if the signature verification does not correctly verify the remainder of the BIOS image.

3. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

performing an update to the BIOS image previous to the determining step; and

storing the message into the buffer responsive to the step of performing the update to the BIOS image.

4. A data processing system comprising:

means for performing an update to the BIOS image;

means for storing a message into a memory location wherein the message indicates that the BIOS image has been updated;

during a subsequent re-boot of the data processing system, means for determining an existence of the message;

responsive to a determination that the message is stored in the memory location, means for performing a signature verification on a remainder of the BIOS image; and

means for proceeding with the re-boot of the data processing system if the signature verification correctly verifies the remainder of the BIOS image.

5. The system as recited in claim 4, further comprising:

means for not proceeding with the re-boot of the data processing system if the signature verification does not correctly verify the remainder of the BIOS image.

6. A computer program product adaptable for storage on a computer readable medium and operable for re-booting an operating system software in a data processing system, comprising the program steps of:

determining whether a buffer in the data processing system contains a message indicating that a BIOS image for the data processing system was previously updated;

responsive to a determination that the buffer contains the message indicating that the BIOS image for the data processing system was previously updated, performing a signature verification on a remainder of the BIOS image; and

proceeding with re-boot of the operating system software if the signature verification correctly verifies the remainder of the BIOS image.

7. The computer program product as recited in claim 6, further comprising the program step of:

not proceeding with the re-boot of the operating system software if the signature verification does not correctly verify the remainder of the BIOS image.

8. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, further comprising the program steps of:

performing an update to the BIOS image previous to the determining step; and

storing the message into the buffer responsive to the step of performing the update to the BIOS image.